

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A combination support surface and receptacle for catering or special events presentation, the support surface comprising a relatively flat, portable table top having a plurality of legs mounted thereto for supporting the table top, the legs having sufficient length and being arranged suitably for suspending the top in a generally horizontal position over at least one refuse container such that the container comprises a base of the table, the legs being releasably joined to the table top for ready mounting or collapse of the same.

2. The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the table top is relatively circular in shape.

3. The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the table top is generally rectangular in shape.

4. The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the refuse container is constructed of a polymeric material.

5. The support and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the refuse container is a conventional plastic trash can.

6. The support and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the refuse container is relatively circular in shape.

7. The support and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the refuse container is generally rectangular in shape.

8. The support and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the legs is releasably joined to the table top by a cotter pin.

9. The support and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the legs is releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, the

other end of the leg being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim of the refuse container.

10. The support and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein each leg is releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, the other end of each leg being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim portion of the refuse container.

11. The support and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein at least two of the legs are releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, the other end of the legs being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim portion of the refuse container.

12. The support and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the legs are releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, the other end of the legs being partially recessed for engagement with and securement to a handle portion of the refuse container.

13. The support and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the legs are releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, one end of at least one of the legs being partially recessed for engagement with and securement to a handle portion of the refuse container, and one end of at least one of the other legs being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim portion of the refuse container.

14. A combination support surface and receptacle for catering or special events presentation, the support surface comprising a relatively flat, portable table top having a plurality of legs mounted thereto for supporting the table top, the legs having sufficient length and being arranged suitably for suspending the top in a generally horizontal position over at least one refuse container such that the container comprises a base of the table, the legs being releasably joined to the table top for ready mounting or collapse of the same, wherein each of the legs are releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, one end of at least one of the legs being partially recessed for engagement with and securement to a handle portion of the refuse

container, and one end of at least one of the other legs being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim portion of the refuse container.

15. A method for assembly or disassembly of a combination support surface and receptacle for catering or special events presentation, comprising the steps of:

(i) releasably mounting a plurality of legs to a support surface so as to suspend the surface in a generally horizontal position, the support surface comprising a relatively flat, portable table top and the legs having sufficient length and being arranged suitably for suspending the top in a generally horizontal position;

(ii) positioning the releasably mounting legs of the support over at least one refuse container; and

(iii) releasably mounting the legs to the container such that the container comprises a base of the table.

15. The method set forth in claim 14, wherein each of the legs are releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, one end of at least one of the legs being partially recessed for engagement with and securement to a handle portion of the refuse container, and one end of at least one of the other legs being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim portion of the refuse container.

16. The method set forth in claim 14, further comprising the steps of (iv) detaching the legs from the table base or container, (v) removing the legs of the support and moving them away from the container, and (vi) detaching the plurality of legs from the support surface for collapse of the combination support and receptacle.